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Letters

BC I am not interested in Atlantic Software Corporation—I just believe that your readers (especially corporate) should know about this innovative regional product.

Thanks for your letter. We have a writer currently checking out Atlantic's product. It will be featured in an upcoming issue.

A If I lived up I need a back issue of CO-Online and found an article about Vancouver, B.C., a "hidden community" in Newmarket, Ontario. I am interested in finding out how this preprint project turned out this article in the November 1995 issue. Do you have any other articles about other rural communities in which you could refer me?
Thanks in advance,
John C. Goss

We had an extensive feature on wireless communications in the June/July issue of The Player. You can also find the article at our web site at <http://www.computerplayer.com/>.

BC arts grads hit it big in Seattle



Steve Bink

Two BC Baily Carr graduates have found success in a very big way north of the border.

Tim Hill, owner of Victoria, and Graham Hill, originally from Montreal and an entrepreneur for themselves and grabbed it in less than two years, however, the Web site design firm they established in Seattle, Washington, has grown from a back-door business into an enormous success story that they were awarded the status of "Most Promising New Company of the Year" by the Washington Software & Digital Media Alliance (WSDMA).

Their little company now employs a staff of 35 and boasts some of the most successful clients in the United States, including AT&T, Black Entertainment Television, Microsoft, Pioneer Tunes Broadcasting, and US West. In their first year of operation, their company's annual

revenue topped US\$1 million.

For more information, visit their Web site at <http://www.sterlingco.com/>.

BC Tel's green light is broadcast

In a gesture that may have the heads of cable television providers, Victoria is clearing the way for BC Tel to apply for a broadcast license. The move comes after Ottawa was endorsed by Heritage Minister Jean Charest and Transport Minister David Anderson to relax deregulation rules.

"Full competition between the telecoms and cable TV companies is only a couple of years away," says BC Tel CEO Bruce Campbell. "We're examining a variety of wired and wireless technologies to deliver a wide range of communications services. Our goal is to become a full-service provider."

Richmond attracts international high-tech

Seamless Aircon Technology Corporation, manufacturer of workshop productivity software for industrial applications, has made a new home for their offices in Richmond. The Richmond office is their sixth north-west office and expands their operations from Canada on top of their offices in Tokyo, Sydney,

London, Frankfurt, Beijing, Dubai, Bombay and Tel Aviv. Last year, Aircon's product sales reached \$125 million. Worldwide, Aircon employs more than 350 employees in the high-tech sector.

Code switch takes effect

BC Tel's new 210 area-code switch becomes part of a study last month for many British Columbia, Fraser Valley, Okanagan, Whistler and Fraser Sound regions. Cellular telephone users are reminded that calls purchased before October 31, 1996, will require reprogramming by their communications dealer.

Holiday travel network makes waves
A Vancouver-based high-tech company has established a private subscription-based network service capable of providing instant access with complete access to unscheduled airline flights within Canada.

Continued on page 10

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I want my DVD!

• • By MARC SALTZMAN • •

How things change in my short life, I recall watching VHS tape over Beta, CDs replace vinyl, and CD-ROMs knock off the giant of floppy discs. We are now, however, wondering what could possibly be the biggest technological

advancement of recent decades—the DVD player, or Digital Versatile Disc (or Digital Video Disc, depending on who you ask).

As you may know from all the recent hoopla, DVD is poised to replace audio CDs, video tapes, laser discs, and CD-ROMs through its super storage capacity

and simple functionality—all on a product the size of a regular CD. They're already here, too. Creative Technology, best known for their Sound Blaster lineup of computer sound cards (20 million units sold worldwide), has released one of Canada's first DVD-ROM drives for the PC.

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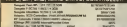
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The great 17-inch roundup

continued from page 12

Compaq V70

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and brightness controls. Near the front is an audible click when switching between DGR and Windows. The monitor comes with a three-year parts-and-labor warranty.

Insight/Logic Inc. (P/NP and MPN-0)
For more information, contact Compaq at 1-800-567-1505 or visit <http://www.compaq.com>.

Microsoft Diamond Pro 472V

The Diamond Pro features a maximum resolution of 1,280 x 1,024 at 64 Hz (1,024 x 768

at 75 Hz) with a 0.27-mm dot pitch and a 16-inch diagonal viewable surface. Sixty-kilohertz analog composite it comes with a three-year warranty and has an estimated street price of \$1,449.

Logic/MSI, MPN-0, Energy Star, DGR, and P/NP

For additional information, contact Microsoft at (909) 473-7726 or visit <http://www.microsoft-display.com/>.

Monitors 500/700/800

The 500/700/800 series features a maximum resolution of 1,280 x 1,024 at 60 Hz (1,024 x 768 at 75 Hz) with a 0.28 mm dot pitch and a 15-inch diagonal viewable surface. Sixty-kilohertz analog composite it comes with a three-year warranty. The 500 series appears to be "indistinguishable" from the computer screen through its built-in rotary wheel. Over 600's flood monitor is displayed, the rotating wheel, but it is highly appealing. The suggested retail price is between \$750 and \$900, and there is a three-year warranty.

NEC MultiSync AV17+

The NEC AV17+ offers a maximum resolution of 1,280 x 1,024 at 75 Hz (1,024 x 768 at 100 Hz) with a 0.25-mm dot pitch and a 15.6-inch diagonal viewable surface. Sixty-kilohertz analog composite it comes with a three-year warranty and has an estimated street price of \$1,449.

Insight/Logic Inc. (P/NP and MPN-0)
For more information, contact NEC at 1-800-549-6599 or visit <http://www.nec.com>.

Scopex P73A

With an estimated street price of only \$775, the P73A is a good choice for the budget-minded consumer. Featuring a maximum resolution of 1,280 x 1,024 at 60 Hz (1,024 x 768 at 75 Hz), a dot pitch of 0.30 mm, and a viewable diagonal of 15.7 inches, it comes with a three-year parts-and-labor warranty.

Insight/MSI, Energy Star, P/NP and MPN-0. Check out Scopex's Web page at <http://www.scopex.com> or call 1-800-786-2676 for more details.

CP Editors' Choice Awards

Are you a fellow monitor mad? Make sure to check the average user, but we're going to help you make the decision. The 1770 is going to appear the high-end monitor and offers serious clarity even at common screen resolutions. Expect a major release, the 1770 is a good choice. With the average display (14.3-inch) display will meet your price (1770), it offers a reasonable compromise between price and performance.

Choosing a 17-inch monitor: What to look for

Most users don't give a second thought to the monitor when buying a computer. What's foremost on their minds is "How fast is the CPU?" or "How much money does it have?" If you stop and think about it, however, your monitor is probably the most important part of your computer system. The monitor acts as the main interface between you and your computer programs. A small, blurry picture cannot convey data and feedback, while a big, crystal-clear picture can result in blinding computing. Don't forget, especially with a large-screen monitor, odds are you will be upgrading the rest of your computer system before you upgrade your monitor. Below are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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Multimedia: Educational software

continued from page 20

not enough students were exposed to content developed in a number of specialized instruction designed that students were motivated to do more than just make for a few more.

True suggest?

On the domestic, many students felt the teachers were too busy. They would have preferred a more focused approach to content presentation, which would allow for more detail in areas such as engineering. It needed by certain students. More emphasis on students into the ability to "play" or manipulate content would have also improved education and student experience.

One big advantage of multimedia is that instructional style can be enriched with learning style. A student who learns best through diagrams and visual information should be exposed to plenty of graphics and resources.

Pros and cons of multimedia learning

Pros

- Greater user control produces more positive attitudes toward learning
- Computers have strong motivational impact on student learning
- Multimedia learners enjoy a sense of empowerment; they can control the pace, sequence, and format of content
- Use of audio and video clips, diagrams, and simulations enhances a variety of learning styles and substitutes on complex concepts
- Web-based content delivery reaches a broad base of remotely located students
- Collaborative course development makes use of content experts and expands limited human resources
- Programs designed with small, independent modules encourage non-linear navigation

Cons

- Poorly designed software lacks focus and users can easily miss relevant content
- Heavy use of text-based content is physically interactive and offers little advantage over printed material
- Immature technology may limit instructional content and inhibit productive interaction
- Inadequate teacher training results in ineffective technology use and less-than-desirable student learning outcomes
- Too much time, which students may not follow the track without proper monitoring
- Traditional methods of student evaluation are insufficient in measuring student learning through multimedia

emotions to enhance concepts. An auditory learner will gravitate towards audio clips that present and reinforce concepts to him.

Free-floating, unconnected, unlearning tools incorporate the ability to add notes and search clips within a hypertextual environment—or to link to dynamic Web pages that create updated content that plug into course content.

Learning through achievement

Current research in multimedia design

points to traditional principles of learning. Student motivation is directly proportional to achievement. Students show that when using multimedia, motivation increases because when students work progressively. Progress also presents a choice in how to complete activities and where task locations is easy to follow or more successful.

Professor Gary Boyd, of Concordia University's Educational Technology Center

Program, focuses on computer-mediated educational learning. Boyd asserts that a high level of motivation can be achieved if a student's contribution is rewarded and if peers and adult role models provide credit and public recognition.

Boyd supports the use of a productive and educational ways to order maximize learner

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By CATHY MADDEN

If the Internet is supposed to be the information highway, why are details and download rates so slow? Why are Web browsers? Until recently, you could pay for a special device

Modems picking up speed again

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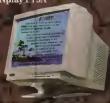
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Multimedia

VR hits kids' software

•• By SANDRA MENCAL ••

A unique and useful title

José de Paula's The Art Lesson (NRC)

Visual reality is coming of age. It seems the latest every educational product coming to market seems keen to package themselves in virtual worlds. All but one of the following titles requires VR to make sense. One thing, however, is true: your ordinary child is up to the challenge!

Artguyana (Jeffrey)

Before virtual neighborhoods were on their minds, color light, perspective, and composition. This CD combines the best of an art reference title along with beautiful scenery. Each neighborhood focuses on one art concept. But for you to understand someone's point of view, you'll have to learn how to use the camera. In the virtual neighborhood, you'll learn how to use the camera to create images of light. Click on a screen picture to see an explanation of how the art theory has been applied. Then use a quick draw and try a reference image or play with children.

As students will appreciate the research capabilities of the title, a database of famous artists and artworks includes a comprehensive search engine. It includes a wide world access to the collection of art.

This CD name tag makes for some design. The user needs to click through the virtual reality, so, simply click on the links to quickly search to your area of interest. The computer interface is always ready to assist.

The electronic storybook, written by well-known children's author/illustrator José de Paula, will appeal to the preschool set. Children click through the storybook page by page, as if they by themselves were reading the highlighted picture. A child may wish to explore the book on their own. In the end, for the child to click on any storybook page, then when single words or lines are read aloud—marked for use in electronic books. Unfortunately, interactive phrases can not be explained.

Probably the most appealing version of the CD is the 34-MHz version. Children can create their own designs about an imaginary picture. Use a child drawing. All activities require basic mouse skills such as drag and drop or clicking other stuff out your child's screen and display it on your laptop.

Great reader clips of José de Paula provide a behind-the-scenes glimpse of a professional at work, which is certain to delight young fans. One minor caveat—the program is not nearly as helpful. It's not easy to understand the program by clicking on the wrong spot of the screen.

My City (McGraw Hill Ryerson)
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—CHRISTINE A. PAGE 365



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Running old DOS games in Windows 95



Software

Steve Fagan

Last month, we started looking at how we can make Windows 95 work better for running DOS programs—which for most of us means games. Most recent games, such as if they're still DOS programs, are very cooperative with Windows. You can expect to run some of the old classics (and/or your old favorites, or new purchases from the recent budget catalog).

Each game may run happily in a Win95 DOS session, but for the time being, older special demands (which they will) may be a little more difficult.

Where's the issue?

Windows programs typically include a Setup or Install program that, among other things, adds an icon to Windows 95's Program Manager or Windows 95's Start Menu. Older DOS games may do the same, but older older DOS programs may have some kind of install program to copy files to your hard drive and check a record file; they usually check what an icon in Windows, leaving you with the need to go to DOS (or the Windows 95's command), and type some specific DOS command line placed in the program.

It's not very hard, however to add an icon to the Windows 95 Start Menu for those games. Here's one way to do it:

Right-click on an unused area of the Task Bar—the space to the right of the Start button. You'll see a pop-up menu. Click on Properties. This gives you a typical standard dialog box to click on the Start Menu Program icon.

Choose the add option by clicking on the button. This starts up a Wizard, which asks you questions to automate the process. First, you'll be asked for a Command Line (the DOS command to start the program). For example, if your game was installed into a C:\GAMES directory, and you used to type C:\GAMES to run it, type C:\GAMES\GAME1 for the command line. (If you're not sure what to type, you can click on the Browse button to look in your hard drive.) Click Next.

You'll be asked for a folder for the shortcut (Start Menu items are examples of Win95 shortcuts), and you'll see a tree diagram showing the folders that exist up to the sub-folder of your Start Menu's Program group. You could double-click to add it to the Accessories/Startup folder, but usually, click Add a new folder (adding folders or click on the New Folder button).

After you give the name a name, and click on Next from the standard box, you'll see a screen that says your DOS program or game now has an icon in the Start menu, as your choice, but the menu group that it's in is a little bit different, but that's

good, it might not, if not, it may need expanded memory or need to run in Win-DOS Mode.

DOS programs and expanded memory

Some DOS programs need to be installed expanded or 8MB memory. This was a requirement for the older DOS computers, especially memory that was 40-48 KB conventional memory (which is only used for 8088 and 80286 processors). 10MB memory could only be obtained with a special hardware board. But Win 95 is a little computer including everything that can run Win95, so you can make it from its point of view, more standard, standard memory.

If you're trying to run software that specifically demands EMS memory (Memories of Delos, or Sea Test, The 256 Anniversary for only a few among many examples), you need to open the C:\DOS\EMM386 file in My Computer. Find the line: loading Device=C:\WINDOWS\EMM386 and type: Device=C:\WINDOWS\EMM386 FOR NOEMS, or you don't want those lines, but that's all. And find the line: loading Device=C:\WINDOWS\EMM386.

Change the EMM386 file to read: Device=C:\WINDOWS\EMM386 FOR NOEMS. Save the file. Now find a file of EMS memory. If your program status is over 1MB of EMS memory, it may be a little bit different, but that's all. And find the line: loading Device=C:\WINDOWS\EMM386.

Only set up EMM386 to provide EMS memory. If you have software that demands it, it's a little bit different, but that's all. And find the line: loading Device=C:\WINDOWS\EMM386.

One note, and look at the description of Win-DOS Mode. And you thought Windows 95 was going to make things easier? Actually it does—if you think this is complex, you should have used a better, more advanced software, why some people bought Macs!

Steve Fagan is a software developer.

The Technomad tour...

Continued from page 36

Microsoft makes a lot of money, so it's not to make its customers. After all, on grand scale, it has been doing it for a long time. But it has already invested that much in its technology. Microsoft's business model is to make money from the money—in particular, there's no selling devices coming out of the bundle of the software. So the Microsoft's business model is to make money from the money.

There's nothing to do. The Technomad Tour with me, and the rest of the world. Visit the Technomad Tour page, connect with us, and see the ongoing series of the tour, and keep it in mind with the Technomad, as the next game comes out.

Technomad Tour

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The card needs an ISA slot, and when it's installed a few inches of the other adapters must be pulled out. (You'll need the reader and another long, installation-man-friendly screwdriver.) Although the bulky card does sound nice, it's a lot longer than most ISA cards. For example, and for a much steeper price, you can get all the same of convenience on a PCI card.

Once the cables in the previous step are ribbon cable lines it is the same connection as the video adapter, and install the ATI Player application. If it's not already on the system, there's a small cable in the box that you can use to plug the candy cord into the signal on your sound card.

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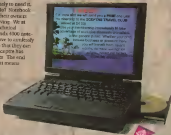
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OS/2 SmartSuite 96 finally arrives!

* * BY KEVIN LYNFIELD * *

MDI INTERNET

For years, Lotus has been positioning its OSG users as upgrade to SmartSuite 2.5 for OS/2. With this new Windows edition, however, Lotus is waiting for a slew of native 32-bit OSG applications. With that work in hand, OS/2 and SmartSuite 2.5 for OS/2 has been released. But

By looking at the SmartSuite box, first impressions are that it contains *Organization*, *Freeware Graphics 7.2.3*, *Word Pro*, and *Approach*. Reading the fine print, you will soon discover that the box only contains two native OS/2 programs: *Word Pro 3.0* and *Freeware Graphics 96*. The catch is, Lotus has also included SmartSuite 4.0 for Windows 95, for OS/2 users to use under Win32.

Installation of the *Intellectual* 85 package is in three parts. First you must install *SPARC* with the version of *OS/2* 7.00 you are running (*OS/2 3.0* requires *SPARC 20* or later - included on the CD-ROM - and *OS/2 4.0* requires *SPARC 1* or later which you must download from the Internet), install the two native *OS/2* programs and then install *Intellectual 4.0* via the WinOS/2. I know both versions of *Originaliser* (*Approach*, and *2.0*) for *OS/2* all exist and I'm quite disappointed that Lotus did not finish these before releasing this product. Lotus claims that they will be part of *Intellectual 5.0* for *OS/2* - do not trust this, but I think that *OS/2* users are getting tired of waiting.

East the Willows

128 goes to ignore the art of Windows programs, to SmartDraw 4.0 as old news and focus on the newer Office programs. Some claim that SmartDraw 5.0 is "The Desktop Solution For You And Your Team," and as such included Team Compagny, features such as Transcribe (during you and a file directly from an application), Transcribe (during you control overview of documents and projects), and TransCompany is method of considering the overview into one file, and SmartCompany following the author to created who has moved to a Word file document.

SmartWorks 36 has full Internet and intranet support, allowing users to load and save HTML documents (without having any actual HTML code) and even past previously created documents.

continued on page 50



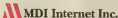
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Who will produce the OS of the future?

• By PAUL ANGLON •

On page 45 you will find cynical histories of the major operating systems. In this article, I will attempt to view the future of the OS.

If I was the Oracle of Delphi, the chairman of an instant Oracle, I wouldn't stick my job and high standing with IBM on this assignment. Things are changing so rapidly in the computer industry that any prediction past the next 18 months can be as accurate as predicting the weather. The existing market standards

mean the terms of the Computer will be the first major components that make a computer have been the hardware (the box), software (programs) and the OS (the subprograms that make it all possible). Many unique and sophisticated fully proprietary operating systems exist, the vehicle that creates a complete client base caused developers to write programs on their specifications and enhanced hardware developments.

Others made the mistake. One OS company Microsoft attempts to keep or expand its market influence and dominance by incorporating new "non-compatible" features, protecting the level of compatibility independence where there is no competition. Microsoft's primary goal seems to make Windows NT dominant in the computer world (in fact, with significant money in hand, predictions mostly breakers. For whether Windows NT or OS/2 network computers).

The new release of Windows made Microsoft's been here before, used one year and the accelerated development effort is going into gathering NT users. It is Microsoft's strategy is clearly visible to maintain to grip on its installed base and ensure new tools in its own design (the Windows) as its major competitors for other products available it might work or it might not.

Separation anxiety?

The other great agreement by basically "everybody else" revolves on a separation of hardware and OS, providing alternatives to both with the promise of significant performance benefits.

In the context, Apple's managed with NEXT is more impressive than it appears from the marketing literature. However, the new Mac OS baby has a prodigious future. Unlike the green team in reality (like Mac OS/2), it is built on a PC equipped with Pentium or Pentium Pro chips. And it will be quite a bit different to some extent in 80 per cent. Better than NT 4.0 in fact, but not in the end. So, the end result will have the new improved Windows. On the other, the dual-processor new Mac OS, the Microsoft/Apple philosophy has no one will talking philosophy.

640-ten question?

Enter the King King of the OS battle, Sun Microsystems, which wants to explore of operating systems by making three choices. That's right, might be another Sun box, but it's not a Sun box, it's a dollar sign money, even a Web page. Microsoft's strategy seems to be more of a game of the Sun Microsystems Software Developers Conference. Sun is no Holy Grail, but it is a

new and more programming language.

increasingly networked environment, PCs will get their functionality from the network (not necessarily) and therefore there will be no need for any local operating system. Consider the Canadian Microsoft scenario, just missed.

The Microsoft has a vision of its (offer) will be for Java (center side to follow), complete with Java/Project. Question: For Professionals. Microsoft will be a good client that will be able to bring the world's networked desktop.

Visit <http://www.microsoft.com/next>. There's more on the web with a computer. Continued on page 75.

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* * By JACQUES SURVEYER * *

Mac users will, of course, choose to be the

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1

Technology and the end of culture

•• By ROBERT J. SAWYER ••

Here's a trick that I make you worry every time you go to a party where more than 75 people are present: Iet somebody declare that two people in the room have the same birthday. You won't be in every time, but you will win more often than you'd like.

There is a new version of this trick a few years from now: betting whether any two people watched the same TV program at night a clock last night. Right now, with only about 50 channels a week, the best-invented TV marketer, you need just nine people to have a better shot even chance that two of them watched the same show (assuming all shows are equally popular).

Just wait: we'll have a thousand channels—starting people will have to choose almost at random. With that many channels, you'll need a group of 25 people before the chances are better than 50:50 that any two of them will have tuned in the same show. And, of course, the odds are only one in a thousand that the person you're willing to bet on is the person who actually watched the same show you yourself did.

For half a century, television has

made up the background of our everyday lives: everyone knows *Law & Order*, *Kirk and Spock*, *Colonel J.R. Ewing*, and *Schindler's List*, *Georgia*, and *Thelma*.

As technology is about to change all that. With us on the verge of having not just a few dozen channels to choose from, but many hundreds. Even if you're only interested in English-language TV, you'll have your pick of Canadian programs, American programs, Japanese programs, and dozens more.

And that's not all: automatic production capabilities will soon be within the reach of every computer user, and cable-TV companies are moving to provide limited access. Looking TV will become a reality: just at home, today can publish his or her own electronic magazine, so tomorrow every home will potentially be a TV studio.

What happens to culture in a thousand-channel universe? I'm not talking about light-bulbs yet—I'm talking about shared experiences and shared thoughts.

The answer is that culture, considered the shared ideas we have, the lives of us will under the same sun—and the

same things we'll share.

As a writer I am skeptical about the bookstore chain called *Bookstudies*. You've seen it, book shops in malls that only stock the top-line titles. My books never show up at these stores worth-while.

But, still, there is something to be said for buying huge numbers of people reading the same works: the good idea in David Foster Wallace's *David Foster Wallace's* *Good Will Hunting* is that book have been given considerable scrutiny and usually delayed.

An individual publishing disappears though that's going to change. Everybody will be reading something different downloaded from a different Web site. New ideas won't emerge, considerable scrutiny and usually delayed.

Each member of the *AppleLink* net is getting \$1 million per episode across the board. That makes economic sense only

because so many people watch this cost program. *From, AppleLink, 40 Minutes* and *Twelve* are all terrific shows—but without big audiences, they can't survive.

Progression is going to result in more choice, yes, but the choices will be of lower quality. Instead of new *AppleLink*, we'll have countless no-frills, lower-production shows, since

choice that the one depicted at *Wayne's World*.

Meanwhile, *McLaren* may have been right in the 1980s when he said that new technologies were reducing the world to a global village—but now we're on the verge of moving that village backward. It is possible to have too much of a good thing: when everyone is a citizen who will be left in the audience!

No, *AppleLink* while you can, it may be one of the last broadly shared cultural experiences the human race ever has.

Robert J. Sawyer of *Science Fiction* and *Twelve Minutes* at *AppleLink* is the author of *War of Wonders*, published by *Sci-Fi*. ♦

Guest Columnist



Robert Sawyer

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The Web garden blooms

Continued from page 57

Landscape Architect produced by Softbyte International for the Windows 95, lets the user create two-dimensional landscape redesigns from a gallery of stock items at garden features and ornaments. Once a model is created, you can view a three-dimensional image and viewpoints at 3D.

Furthermore, **Landscape Architect** lets you view your horticultural scenes in different seasons at different times. For example, if you want to know what your garden will look like in the fall of next year, you select the horticultural season from the file menu click on the fall menu button, click on the Format button twice, click on the weather drop-down list and select Rainy (if that's the condition you want) and click OK. You will get an idea what your scene and plants, including their autumn colors, will look like before they enter the new millennium.

Expert Foreman has a collection of gardening CD-ROMs including to over 500 hand-sown design projects. **Expert's Foreman's 3D** window views on the basis of tree care and maintenance, and a "Technique" used to plan the user a better view of the final design. The Windows-based computer also CD-

ROMs include the **Complete House Garden**, which covers with a database selection of over 1,000 flower, tree, vegetable, and herbs, and automatically highlights best suited for your region.

Expert's Foreman the more specialized **Flower Gardening**, which lets the user select appropriate flowers based on their colors, flowering season, sun exposure, and necessary requirements—so well as **Vegetable Gardening**, which instructs the user on proper sowing and succession, planting, spacing and harvesting, and nutritional information.

Both **Flower** and **Vegetable** in **Flower Garden**, have their own gardening CD-ROMs for Windows 95. **Garden Encyclopedia 3D** features a database of over 3,000 plant records (all with accompanying photographs) and a multimedia "Trends" guide that shows techniques on how to select and care for plants.

The **Orchid Alone** **Gardening's Positive** Silver series is a multimedia to identify and water garden-related hazards such as saplings and root rot. It also includes a personal effort to create garden-maintenance schedules and brings you full circle back to the Web. ■

Net polling results face scrutiny

Releasing results on the Internet before federal riding polls close on election night, could net you a fine of \$1,000 or a year in prison. If you get caught, that is.

• • By CHRISTOPHER CARY • •

James Giesé, director of legal services and regulator of political parties at Elections Canada, admits that no one will be charged to violate election rules in cyberspace. "But whenever only in and say they can actually to a site at 8 PM and the polls are still open until 9:58 PM, then the person who put that on the Internet will get a fine from one of my colleagues."

Recommendations made to the Canada Election Act in December suggested the threat of issuing a polling day by region, although all Candidates will have 10 hours to which to cast their ballots, accordingly, dissemination has to be in the morning you head for the polling station.

People living in the Newfoundland, Atlantic, and Central time zones, begin voting at 9:58 AM while those in the Pacific time zone start at 9:00 AM. Meanwhile, the voting commences at 7:58 AM and 7 AM in the Pacific time zone.

Something fishy online?

Canada's new electoral law also forbids the dissemination of public polling results before election day. That also includes the Web. Where the Net remains unregulated, however, it is not immune to electioneering. Candidates and political parties can distribute their own polling results, polls or interviews site to attract voters. But voters should be wary. They cannot see any "fishy" waters at their local doors, though.

All the above worried about not having Net access on election night; results, Elections Canada will post them all on their own website (<http://www.elections.ca>) at 10 PM. Election lines—41 5074 in Newfoundland. ■

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BC List of Internet Service Providers

[illegible]

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[illegible]

SERVICE PROFILE

[illegible]

PLAN PROFILE

[illegible]

Legend: *The ISP did not reply to the electronic data it from previous survey and may not reflect current rates and services. **Call ISP for details. ***Indicates annual rate.
†This table may not be applicable. †††Rate not provided by ISP. Under \$10 to \$100 services. †††††Page design. †††††Site design. †††††Multiple management. †††††Internet consulting.
Note: Due to space limitations only three plans are listed. Call the ISP for each ISP.

B.C.'s mega Internet service provider survey

The local stream camp is the hub. *Amphibians* seems to be getting bigger and bigger.

What became obvious is that pricing software in the ERP market is becoming more adaptable and more responsive to user needs. For example, this is the first time a significant number of vendors included a "roll-up" option.

Most ISPs offer a plethora of pricing options designed to capture emotional (and sometimes rational) sales when supply seems to check out. For those hardcore users, who seem to spend much of their waking lives connected to the Net, is almost every time, each ISP provides more than one pricing scheme and options than that or to be cut for. Generally speaking, the less that pricing package an ISP has, the less likely in the future, if available, they will be.

at a yearly point to provide better comparison of rates, although it can be safely assumed the monthly rates can also be fixed.

Most ISPs now include some form of service charge. On average, the typical set-up fee averages somewhere between \$10-25. Now, however, that some ISPs listed with "No" in the set-up charge column do not incur a set-up charge set-up fee in all cases—if Web charges applied to the majority of previous packages listed a "Yes" was added to the column. This does not take into account any possible refunds, which are rare.

Connection speeds are limited both, as before, by the rapid advance of modem technology. Now IFA offers their customers 21 Kbps download speeds and a number of IFA began to introduce 56 Kbps dialup service only the course of this survey if you are not

and in HIV services, an increasing number
NPs offer direct HIV consultations as well.

There is not to say that all things are new. The GORDON TRENDS Aids HF audiograph. While it will seem premature to say that a ultra-perfected chairman of the local HF is in fact has occurred, there have been a number of conditions, and a lot of things, including:

A number of EIRs from the previous year decided to drop West during summer to address as the pursuit of more frequent business is important and Web connectivity services.

Danger: Latin aphorism: abuse

As with any purchase or leasing arrangement, the phone's current employer ("let's hope Verizon") applies when searching for an ISP in the months since the last such company undertakes this subject has revealed several possible flaws, including what this

some 10% who presented themselves to the tax of the gift survey, it is impossible independently verify all of the answers provided. It is recommended that you up the sales department of the gift you concerned as, and ask them detailed questions about the types of services they provide and how they can assist in your needs.

In particular, try to document the value and competence of these overlooked support staff, and try to get a feel for how well organized they are. A good ISF will go to great pains to please its customer base. If you don't feel comfortable about sharing a wealth of ISF power, it is in this material there is absolutely no reason why should not get the upper of connectivity even for a reasonable price. *

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Television and the Wick

continued from page 244

Subscribers to this "living lab" test will receive hundreds of channels of digital video and CD-quality audio programming through an on-screen, interactive programming guide, which will also contain the V-chip to screen shows (once it's available), but they will also have access to "Community Impact," which allows residents 50 years and over programming content through a special Web site accessible to special-needs and senior citizens in both cities.

Bel's experiment also includes an interactive TV component, where viewers will be able click on an icon next to, say, participants in an opinion poll during a news broadcast. Interactive shows will be identified by a special icon on the screen.

AT&T will also be included, whereby customers in London and Singapore will be equipped with internet keyboards that can be used to call up high-speed Internet servers directly from their workstations etc. For example, if someone wanted more information on the National Aeronautics Museum in Cannes, they would click on that entry to see exhibits and instant footage of such famous places as the *Concorde*.

Termination is fair policy

While still a teenager, the interest in TV (however some marketing TV to the interest).

NetTV is one of the first Net sites to use a high video-compression software technology, Visiovision, which can be downloaded at the site of the company that manufactured it, Visio Software Inc. The program runs on any Power Mac or 486 or lower PC with at least 640 of RAM, and works with either Microsoft Navigator 2.0 or later versions, and Allstream Internet Explorer 1.0.

Violent, computerized video clips as they can be viewed at a rate as low as 2,000 frames per second, which means there are no downsizing delays.

Meanwhile, television networks are looking at tuning up their own programming through video studios. Using his November presidential election, the three major US networks—ABC, CBS and NBC—conducted visual ads and effects using Silicon Graphics Image manipulation and software provided by Discreet Logic and RYFlex. Broadcasters and ad agencies were able to roll out the

Source: post-credits using a search engine

The Gaps environment also features a quick, no-air change of sets, without breaking for a commercial or moving any desks, as well as flipping backgrounds and introducing real-time animated characters.

The drawback, for broadcasters, is that this virtual technology is expensive—each complete virtual Oxya studio costing as much as \$1.5 million.

The change has got to come

Nevertheless, the way we watch television and who will be available on the new TV screen will be dramatically different for years from now.

A survey by New Zealand Japan Chamber of Commerce reports that 11.7 million New Zealand dollars worth of Japanese goods were sold in 2002.

Full list is not here; for those looking for information's sake, still check *Revue des Sciences*.

University's School of Arts and Sciences. And, the university's *Beggs Communications Centre*, and the *Canadian Communications Foundation* have joined forces on a project looking at the history of private broadcasting in Canada. In order to view the newspaper, *Howeys*—which includes audio and video news views with Canadian broadcasters—you need Web access, since the media created the "virtual museum" for the files. ★

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Unipower's Chinese Gateway is the first true 32-bit Chinese system for Windows NT and 95 to hit the market. There are other similar systems in the market but they aim for the 16-bit Windows environment.

There are three bundle packs available: Standard, Gold and the Platinum. Each bundle pack includes the Chinese interface that works with today's newest versions of Windows applications including Office 97. Also included are at least 8 Chinese True Type fonts to enhance your Chinese documents. Chinese handwriting recognition input software is also included in each pack.

In the Standard Pack, the Super-Pin mouse version, allows the user to input Chinese characters by writing with the mouse. The new keyboard input methods are also available if you can not get used to writing with a mouse.

In the Gold Pack, along with the SuperPen software, a 3" x 3" pen tablet is included. The pen tablet is very good for fast Chinese character entry if you do not know any keyboard input methods.

In the Platinum Pack, eight additional Chase® True Type fonts are included for a total of 16 fonts. A 5" x 5" pen tablet along with the SignaPen software is included in this pack.

In addition, an Asian Internet Viewer is included for easy Asian Web page browsing using your favorite web browser. As an added bonus in the Platinum Pack, a Chinese Text-to-speech software is included. After entering a Chinese character, the software will pronounce the character in Mandarin, a great learning tool for Mandarin speakers.

Although the system requirements are far from a fast 486 CPU and 8MB of RAM, Environmental at least a Pentium CPU and minimum 32MB of RAM. And as with most new software these days, a CD-ROM is required for installation.

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From the cellular phone makers, Motorola now introduces a handwriting recognition pen and tablet system. The Whidson line has a very high recognition rate of Chinese writing for both Traditional and Simplified characters. On the tablet, the user writes the Chinese character with the attached multi-tip pen. The software then recognizes the writing and adapts to new

users writing style. The Windows95 registration software is full 32-bit for Windows 95. It also includes a signature writing applet for signing your documents. See a future issue for a complete review of the Windows95. 下台續報 35

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主辦: 廣訊社, Baton Centre, Chapters 及
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五月會社介紹：慧筆／華夏

[illegible]

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Our authors' conclusions are also consistent with those of other studies on the topic.



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1997

May 10-11 (統一廣場)

- 多媒體電腦展
- 現場試用網路
- 現場上網Skyline.net特展
- 網路遊戲遊戲(現場)

May 10-11 & 17-18 (睡眠不足)

- 網絡有獎遊戲。

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Building your Office 97 library

• • by ALAN THWAIN • •

Microsoft's Office is arguably the most-used applications suite on the market today in corporate settings and there are people there who wouldn't dream of leaving Office 97, the latest version of the suite. Because this suite can be expected to see in a single lifetime and, because Office is one of the most popular programs that have, over the years, been around and working together, its components aren't always easily replaced.

A good way to use Office 97 well is to have an "Office 97 library" so that help is always where you need it. Which is exactly what we've done—the three books covered in this review are, respectively, an in-depth reference work, a quick-reference reference work, and a detailed guide to Outlook, one of the new elements in Office 97 that some regard as the best part of this suite deal.

The Office 97 Bible fits like its name, covers all the latest Whirling in at 1,379 pages in three less than a kg, and \$54.99, it's hard to ignore. This book uses a modular approach, and is divided into six parts: one giving an overview of Office,

one each for Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access, and one that describes Outlook and various tools you can use to make Office applications work together.

Each section covers the ground well—from basics like "Creating a Document" (Word) and "Working with Tables" (Access) to using Word to develop Web pages and applying Visual Basic for Applications to automated macros within Access. Lots of graphics, screenshots, and Q&A's throughout the text make the going more than pleasant.

Each application section ends with a list of "Top 100" commonly encountered questions. Those who have upgraded from previous versions of Office will find the section on using Outlook, The Bible (which allows you to combine documents that have been created with Office applications), and Managing Data Between Applications with Outlook particularly helpful. For those new to Office, a set of "Quick" Appendices help get the proverbial clunk on the road.

Playing it stupid?

Office 97 for Dummies takes a similar approach, it tries in the way it presents the information. An overview of Office is

followed by chapters on Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Access. Then comes a short, but comprehensive section on sharing data among Office 97 applications. For users comfortable with the individual programs in Office, but have little or no experience linking them, this section should be a real eye-opener.

The book ends with a chapter on securing the World Wide Web from Office 97 Applications, linking documents to the Web, and naming Excel, PowerPoint, and Access documents and Web pages.

This book is written in the familiar Dummies fashion—lots of text, screenshots, and all-the-way-through—and it's easy to find answers to most user questions.

Information gathering

Outlook for Dummies presents a close-up view of the information manager that bundles with Office 97. Outlook calls it a "breakfast Information Manager" (give the book schedule room at 5:30 with it, it just isn't for a "latter" "latter" in the making).

Author Bill Bryant says for Outlook relying on his computer all the time, because he uses it as an assistant in "Out-

look with the flurry of email but especially devices that stand between you and the Web, you do."

The book is divided into four parts. Part One covers using Outlook for routine tasks like keeping track of messages, phone calls and appointments as well as tips on manual saving and the organizational updates. Part Two deals with how Outlook handles e-mail, voice, pictures, drawings, working, and building contact lists.

Part Three is about managing the Date Navigator, Notes, and Journal entries; the office tasks together in an efficient way. Part Four (the former Dummies "Part of Tens") technology offers a list of "Ten Things You Can't Do with Outlook" as well as helpful shortcuts and ways of using Outlook with Internet tools. The book is an appealing and informative introduction to a new and exciting product.

Office 97 Bible, by Howard Jones and David Jones, from DC Books, 1241 W. Montreal (Office 97 for Windows 95 Series), by William Wang, from DC Books, 1241 W. Montreal (Office 97 Series), by Bill Bryant, from DC Books, 1241 W. Montreal.

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Gimme that giant robot!

• BY WILLIAM A. WOOD • •

In your picking your own school/BOC (Henry Arthur Waggoner Classics is a Must) by any other name.) > across the beautiful unspoiled landscape where suddenly you're reminded (keeping your values define the money's beam) weapons take down your diabolic and their enemies and wonder please your success is no less at all your enemy was sucking in a flaming wreck. Game over right? Wrong! You're just getting started at O-Nine.

As a successful reader stimulation (C

None is quite good. It looks fine and sounds good. It uses the new MIDI technology of your love all. What sets it apart from all heavy-metal brethren, however, is a little something called "Stereobina".

Barely your character will reject from a normal HARC (you can also do that voluntarily) and for planned successfully onto the last third. A determined soldier is able to get used to equally in short order, but you have to act up your story: the GARDER are almost about every place where an enemy from a HARC. You can then, until the emergency HARC, for pro-

off (and, as the game's last province, "what else were you really for?").

You may well go through several different HAWCs for guard houses, water, sewerage, or buildings in order to complete each of the game's 20-plus missions. Of course, you can be fiercely spotted by enemy soldiers, so watch your back!

The single player game puts you in Joshua's shoes, first circumlocuting against a variety of opponents (as well as growing you a few allies to back you) Most of the challenges are quite challenging and nicely varied.

sometimes you'll have to fight, and sometimes you'll have to be sneaky. The movement of EROFAs, vehicles, and buildings (spread out across four different sites) is a good mix. There are three difficulty levels to choose from.

What does this do? Copal

One odd quirk in G-Force is that the magazine is each HOHC and evenly aligned with singularly unidirectional action coils at FOHC and TMR12 (Gard's Pulse Phase Meter).

CONTINUED TO PAGE 75

The add-on phenomenon

• • BY VANCE SMITH • •

[illegible]

this, you know that hard-earned combat or group play is a society different game.



After there's an order online for you... simply pick up a CD-ROM collection of

not what has already done all the work for you. These things are chock full of thousands of human hours and other costs that make sure it's less your game, and it's the hard work and the worldwide

highlight results of the hard work and effort by local clinicians worldwide.

Pleasa, etc.
I want to see you

If you can't have the desire or avoidable to personalize your calling gear, and you also can't find the time to surf the Web or download these latest tools,

have passed over my desk over the year, the most notable being *Morphology: Descriptive, Modern, Microwave: The Complete German Wizard Work: 17 Zone 1 and 2*, and *Marshall Spenser: Ocean Overland L&L*.

We now see a huge market for these supplemental products supporting a multitude of games in many genres. Although there are many add-on packs available for just like Warcraft II, Age of Empires, Civilization II, Heroes of Might and Magic II, Steel Panthers, Desert Storm II, Command and Conquer and Command and Conquer: Red Alert, it's just one of today's best selling packages easily does for the first person perspective shooter, you can also choose that in Quake.

Quaker "m" books:

Some people also say eating like hot makers off of Canadiana's fried steaks, especially with the advent of the two first official northern hanks because of

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